type of unit. The h-βTrCP protein is only capable of interacting with proteins containing this unit when the two serine residues are phosphorylated, and it cannot interact with proteins containing a phosphorylation unit in which the serine residues are mutated to non-phosphorylatable amino acids. By interacting with the phosphorylated proteins on this unit, the h-βTrCP protein controls their ubiquitinylation and their screening towards degradation by proteasome.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 4, with the following new paragraph:

The cDNA of the h-βTrCP protein of SEQ ID No. 1 was amplified by carrying out PCR on 2 µg of plasmid DNA from the pGAD cDNA library using two amplification turns, the outer pair of primers for the first turn consisting of the sense primer A of SEQ ID No. 3 (in pGAD1318) and the antisense primer B of SEQ ID NO. 4 (in VBP1) and the inner pair of primers for the second turn consisting of the sense primer C of SEQ ID No. 5 (in pGAD 1318) and the antisense primer D of SEQ ID No. 6 (in VBP1).

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2 and 5 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 7, 27 and 37 as follows:

1. (Amended) Human βTrCP protein (h- βTrCP) for the targeting of proteins towards proteasome degradation pathways, said protein being capable of interacting with proteins degradable by proteasome, which possess the phosphorylation unit comprising the amino acids Asp-Ser-Glu-Xaa-Xaa-Ser (SEQ ID NO:9), in which Xaa is